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BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

In the Matter of

Susan Morton-Pradhan, M.D.

Holder of License No. **32650**
For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine

In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-14-1028A

**INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT
FOR PRACTICE RESTRICTION**

INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT

Susan Morton-Pradhan, M.D. ("Respondent") elects to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal with respect to this Interim Consent Agreement for Practice Restriction and consents to the entry of this Order by the Arizona Medical Board ("Board").

INTERIM FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

2. Respondent is the holder of License No. 32650 for the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

3. The Board initiated case number MD-14-1028A after receiving information indicating that Respondent may have an active substance abuse issue that places patients and the public in danger. Specifically, it is alleged that Respondent is or has been under the influence of pain medication beyond therapeutic levels while treating patients, and that she is or may have in the past diverted pain medication from patients for her own use.

4. The aforementioned information was presented to the investigative staff, the medical consultant and the lead Board member. All reviewed the information and concur that the interim consent agreement to restrict Respondent's practice is appropriate.

1 5. The investigation into Respondent's professional conduct is pending and will
2 return to the Board promptly upon completion for review and action.

3 **INTERIM CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

4 1. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over
5 Respondent.

6 2. Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-1405(C)(25) the Executive Director has authority to
7 enter into a consent agreement when there is evidence of danger to the public health and
8 safety.

9 3. Pursuant to A.A.C. R4-16-504, the Executive Director may enter into an
10 interim consent agreement when there is evidence that a restriction is needed to mitigate
11 imminent danger to the public's health and safety. Investigative staff, the Board's medical
12 consultant and the lead Board member have reviewed the case and concur that an interim
13 consent agreement is appropriate.

14 **INTERIM ORDER**

15 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

16 1. Respondent is prohibited from engaging in the practice of medicine in the
17 State of Arizona as set forth in A.R.S. § 32-1401(22) until she applies to the Board and
18 receives permission to do so. Respondent may not apply for release from or modification
19 of this Interim Consent Agreement until she has completed a Physician Health Program
20 ("PHP") assessment and any recommendations that arise as a result of the assessment
21 including evaluation and treatment.

22 2. Once all of the terms and conditions of this Interim Consent Agreement have
23 been met, Respondent may request release from or modification of this Interim Consent
24 Agreement. The Board has the sole discretion to determine whether all of the terms and
25 conditions of this Interim Consent Agreement have been met and whether Respondent

1 has adequately demonstrated that he has addressed all of the issues identified in this
2 Interim Consent Agreement.

3 3. The Board retains jurisdiction and may initiate new action based upon any
4 violation of this Interim Consent Agreement, including, but not limited to, summarily
5 suspending Respondent's license.

6 43. Because this is an Interim Consent Agreement and not a final decision by
7 the Board regarding the pending investigation, it is subject to further consideration by the
8 Board. Once the investigation is complete, it will be promptly provided to the Board for its
9 review and appropriate action.

10 54. This Interim Consent Agreement shall be effective on the date signed by the
11 Board's Executive Director.

12 RECITALS

13 Respondent understands and agrees that:

14 1. The Board, through its Executive Director, may adopt this Interim Consent
15 Agreement, or any part thereof, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1405(C)(25) and A.A.C. R4-16-
16 504.

17 2. Respondent has read and understands this Interim Consent Agreement as
18 set forth herein, and has had the opportunity to discuss this Interim Consent Agreement
19 with an attorney or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Interim Consent Agreement
20 with an attorney. Respondent voluntarily enters into this Interim Consent Agreement and
21 by doing so agrees to abide by all of its terms and conditions.

22 3. By entering into this Interim Consent Agreement, Respondent freely and
23 voluntarily relinquishes all rights to an administrative hearing on the matters set forth
24 herein, as well as all rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or
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1 any other administrative and/or judicial action, concerning the matters related to the
2 Interim Consent Agreement.

3 4. Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement does not
4 constitute a dismissal or resolution of this matter or any matters that may be currently
5 pending before the Board and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the
6 Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding this or any other pending or future
7 investigations, actions, or proceedings. Respondent also understands that acceptance of
8 this Interim Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision, or
9 officer of this State from instituting civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct
10 that is the subject of this Interim Consent Agreement. Respondent further does not
11 relinquish his rights to an administrative hearing, rehearing, review, reconsideration,
12 judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action, concerning the matters
13 related to a final disposition of this matter, unless she affirmatively does so as part of the
14 final resolution of this matter.
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16 5. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon signing this Interim
17 Consent Agreement and returning it to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may
18 not revoke his acceptance of this Interim Consent Agreement or make any modifications to
19 it. Any modification of this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually
20 approved by the parties in writing.

21 6. Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement shall not
22 become effective unless and until it is signed by the Board's Executive Director.

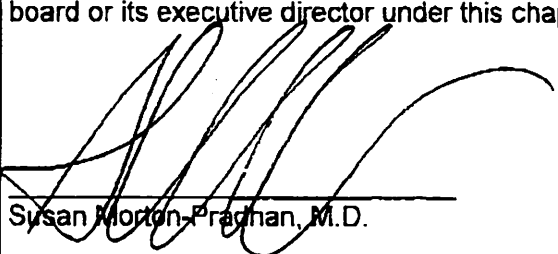
23 7. Respondent understands and agrees that if the Board's Executive Director
24 does not adopt this Interim Consent Agreement, she will not assert in any future
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1 proceedings that the Board's consideration of this Interim Consent Agreement constitutes
2 bias, prejudice, prejudgment, or other similar defense.

3 8. Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement is a public
4 record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board, and that it shall
5 be reported as required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

6 9. Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement does not
7 alleviate her responsibility to comply with the applicable license-renewal statutes and
8 rules. If this Interim Consent Agreement remains in effect at the time Respondent's
9 allopathic medical license comes up for renewal, she must renew her license if
10 Respondent wishes to retain her license. If Respondent elects not to renew her license as
11 prescribed by statute and rule, Respondent's license will not expire but rather, by
12 operation of law (A.R.S. § 32-3202), become suspended until the Board takes final action
13 in this matter. Once the Board takes final action, in order for Respondent to be licensed in
14 the future, she must submit a new application for licensure and meet all of the
15 requirements set forth in the statutes and rules at that time.

17 10. Respondent understands that any violation of this Interim Consent
18 Agreement constitutes unprofessional conduct under A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(r) ("violating a
19 formal order, probation, consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the
20 board or its executive director under this chapter").

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24 Susan Morton-Pradhan, M.D.
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DATED: 7/23/2014

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DATED this 23rd day of July, 2014.

ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

By C. Lloyd Vest, II
C. Lloyd Vest, II
Executive Director

EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing e-mailed
this 23rd day of July, 2014 to:

Susan Morton-Pradhan, M.D.
Address of Record

ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
this 23rd day of July, 2014 with:

Arizona Medical Board
9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Mary Baker
Arizona Medical Board Staff